

observations were made after that date so, presumably, the 2001 batch did not establish. My thanks to all those who have sent records and other information.—PAUL MABBOTT, 49 Endowood Road Sheffield S7 2LY.

**The Devon Carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* Metc. (Lep.: Geometridae), a first for Leicestershire**

On the night of 7/8 June 2004, a single specimen of this species was recorded in a catch from the Rothamsted Insect Survey light-trap at Loddington (No. 560, O. S. grid reference SK 792024).

The Devon Carpet is a species of damp woodland areas, and is chiefly distributed in the south and south-west of England, along with some sites in Sussex, Berkshire and Gloucestershire (Skinner 1984; *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. Viking). The distribution in Wales shows a similar south and south-west prevalence, with records extending northwards into Caernarvonshire. Records from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (Waring & Townsend, 2003. *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*. British Wildlife Publishing) could indicate source populations from which this specimen originated.

Rothamsted data suggests that the range of *L. otregiata* is extending, with the annual total catch increasing significantly. The underlying dynamics show that local population numbers are increasing slightly; while national distribution is also expanding slowly. The greatest increases have occurred within the traditional range for the species, particularly in the south-west and in Wales. The Welsh population expanded rapidly in the early 1980s and has since spread at low density to the north and east. Considering the general trend of decline in Britain's moth fauna (Conrad *et al* 2004; Long-term population trends in widespread British moths, *Journal of Insect Conservation* 8: 119-136), it is encouraging to see a success story such as this. Hopefully, if the current pattern of increase and expansion continues, this specimen may not be the last of this delicate little moth to be found in Leicestershire and the surrounding area.

Many thanks to Kelvin Conrad for providing the statistical information and to Adrian Russell for confirming the specimen as a first for his county.—PHILIP J. L. GOULD, Co-ordinator, Light-trap Network, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Plant & Invertebrate Ecology Division, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ (E-mail: phil.gould@bbsrc.ac.uk).

**Separation of Red Twin-spot *Xanthorhoe spadicearia* (D. & S.) and Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe ferrugata* (Cl.) (Lep.: Geometridae)**

The separation of these two moths can be a problem, especially of worn examples in a light traps. The Red-twin-spot usually has a red median band on the forewing, but in some forms this band can be very dark or almost black. The Dark-barred Twin-spot, as the common name implies, has the median band of the forewing